

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 have been examined. Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claim 10 contains allowable subject matter.

**I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,404,485 to Ban (“Ban”).

**A. Claim 1**

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 and submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 1 recites, “A method for managing a flash memory in which a mapping area, a data area and an alternative area are arranged sequentially therein.” Furthermore, claim 1 recites, “wherein, if the mapping information on the data block exists in the mapping area, data is read from the data block in the alternative area, and if the mapping information on the data block does not exist in the mapping area, data is read from the data block at the original address in the data area.”

Applicant submits that Ban’s teachings regarding the active units and the transfer units fail to teach or suggest the above features. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

**B. Claims 5, 6 and 7**

Since claims 5, 6 and 7 contain features that are analogous to the features discussed above for claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable for at least analogous reasons as claim 1.

**C. Claims 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9**

Since claims 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9 are dependent upon one of claims 1 or 7, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

**II. Allowable Subject Matter**

As stated above, the Examiner has indicated that claim 10 contains allowable subject matter.

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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